

# History Highlights

The area surrounding the Catawba River is rich in history. Artifacts including pottery shards, flint chips and arrowheads, as well as burial sites near the river, indicate the presence of American Indians long before European settlement.

In 1600, the Catwaba Indians had an estimated population of 5,000 but their number steadily declined due to disease and warfare with Iroquoian tribes. By 1760, the tribe was reduced to 60 fighting men. In 1762, the Catawbas left the area and moved south.



In the mid-18th century, Fort Dobbs was built to protect area settlers during the French and Indian War. Daniel Boone helped to defend this fort against the Cherokees. During the Revolutionary War, Lord Cornwallis set up a camp in the area and a skirmish was fought at Cowans Ford, an area now covered by Lake Norman.

Lake Norman was created from 1959 to 1964 when Duke Energy built the Cowans Ford Dam across the Catawba River to generate electrical energy. The creation of the lake led to further industrialization of Mecklenburg County, helping establish Charlotte as a major trade center.

The park was formed in September 1962, when Duke Energy donated 1,328 acres of land on the northeastern shore of Lake Norman for a state park.

# Picnicking

The Pier picnic area, one of three in the park, is located near the swimming area on a ridge overlooking the beach. The Cove picnic area is located off of Shortleaf Drive near the swimming area. The Peninsula picnic area is located near the park entrance at the Park Lake area. Picnic tables and grills are scattered throughout the woods at all three areas. Picnic shelters are available at the two latter areas and they may be reserved for a fee. Restrooms are also provided at each area.

# Flora & Fauna

All of the fields cultivated for the past three centuries have been reforested by pines through natural successions and intentional planting. Today, the park is comprised of a mix of pine and hardwood forests. Due to severe storms and infestation by southern pine beetles, the pine forest exists as smaller pockets surrounded by a forest of hardwoods. Hickories, sweet gum, red maple, dogwood and oaks are the prevalent species. Mountain laurel, wild hydrangea, box elder, strawberry bush and other small trees and shrubs comprise the understory.

Stream banks are dominated by sweet gum, ironwood and river birch, while beech may be found in the coves. Alder and willow thickets grow along the lake's edge, as well as marsh grasses, rushes and sedges.

Though most of the park's animal species are rarely seen, at least 35 species of mammals have been found in the area around the park. Upland communities are home to the Virginia opossum, eastern cottontail, gray squirrel, bobcat, coyote, red and gray foxes, and white-tailed deer, as well as the eastern mole and several species of shrews and mice. Muskrat and raccoon may be seen in the marshes along the creeks and lake.

Amphibians and reptiles are abundant and diverse at Lake Norman. Frogs, turtles and water snakes inhabit wetlands along the creeks and the perimeter of the lake. Most of the snakes found in the park are harmless and seldom seen. However, the venomous



# Nature's Classroom

Rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Lake Norman State Park. Contact the park office to arrange a special exploration of the park for your group or class.

Educational materials about Lake Norman State Park have been developed for grades 4-6 and are correlated to North Carolina's competency-based curriculum in science, social studies, mathematics and English/language arts. The Lake Norman program introduces students to aquatic organisms. The program also focuses on water quality and resource management, demonstrating how watersheds should be managed to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems and drinking water. Accompanying the program is a teacher's booklet and workshop, free of charge to educators. Contact the park office to learn more about environmental education.

copperhead lives in the park. Hikers should exercise caution.

Birdlife in the park is typical of the Carolina piedmont. Wild turkey, pine warblers, blue jays, American goldfinches and bobwhites make their homes in the uplands. During spring and fall migrations, a diversity of warblers pass through the area. In the summer, species like the ruby-throated hummingbird, indigo bunting and yellow-throated warbler breed here. Red-tailed and broad-winged hawks are common and osprey also may be seen near Lake Norman.

The waters of Lake Norman attract a variety of waterfowl. Mallards, wood ducks, teal, hooded mergansers and other ducks, as well as geese, may be seen during certain seasons. Wading birds, including great blue herons, green-backed herons and egrets, may be encountered along lake shallows during the summer.

# Camping

**Family Tent/Trailer Camping:** Tent pads, picnic tables and grills are available at 33 sites on a first-come, first-served basis, for a fee. Occupancy is limited to one family or six people per site. Park gates are locked at the posted closing hours. Campers may not leave the park after closing or before 8 a.m. Rangers and/or campground hosts will be available in case of an overnight emergency.

**Group Tent Camping:** Walk-in group campsites may be reserved by organized groups for a fee. Campers without reservations must confirm site availability with park staff before occupying a site. No more than 25 people are permitted on each site. Drinking water and restrooms are available nearby. Picnic tables and a fire ring are provided at each site.

Call the Lake Norman State Park office for more information.



# On the Water

**Boating:** Pedal boats and canoes are available for rent. They are available daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer months. Privately owned boats and watercraft may access Lake Norman from the boat launch area located at the south end of the park. Use of the area is free but the parking area must be vacated by the park's closing time.

**Fishing:** Popular game fish in Lake Norman include crappie, bluegill and yellow perch, as well as striped, largemouth and white bass. The smaller Park Lake also has some choice fishing spots. Regulations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission apply for both lakes.

**Swimming:** A lakefront swimming area and beach is located at the end of State Park Road. Lifeguards may be present from 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily during the summer months, but call the Lake Norman State Park office before your visit if you need to confirm that a lifeguard will be on duty.

# Hiking

**Alder Trail:** Begin this easy 0.8-mile loop at the Park Lake parking area. The trail goes through the Peninsula picnic area, circles the peninsula between Norwood and Hicks creeks and then skirts the edge of Lake Norman. Take a short side-path to the dam and view the spillway and gates that control the lake's water level before returning to the trailhead.

**Lake Shore Trail:** The trailhead for this moderate 5-mile trail is located near the Cove picnic area, off of Shortleaf Lane. The trail follows the lakeshore, passes by the family campground and swimming area, and returns to the trailhead. Take the Short Turn Trail to roughly cut the distance in half. To add another 1.3 miles, do an out and back on the Group Camp Spur Trail.

# Mountain Biking

**Itusi Trail:** (pronounced "ee-too-see") The trailhead is located in the Park Lake area parking lot. The trail is primarily used by mountain bikers but hikers are also welcome. Hikers must yield to the bikers however. The moderate trail is currently 12.7 miles in length but volunteers are continually working to expand the trail. Contact the park office if you'd like to help them. This trail will be closed to all users whenever the trail is too wet from precipitation. Contact the park for trail conditions prior to arrival. This trail closes thirty minutes before regular park closing time.

# Community Building

A community building located near the group camping area may be rented for events. The facility has a large meeting room, kitchen facilities, restrooms and a fireplace. The building may be occupied between 8 a.m. and a half hour before closing. Contact the Lake Norman state park office to reserve the facility.



# Rules & Regulations

Make your visit a safe and rewarding experience. Some of our rules are posted throughout the park for the protection of our park and our visitors. A complete list is available at the park office. Help preserve our natural resources by observing the following:

- ☐ The removal of any plant, animal, rock or mineral is prohibited.
- ☐ All state parks are wildlife preserves. Hunting and trapping are not permitted.
- ☐ Cooking fires are permitted only in designated areas.
- ☐ Firearms and fireworks are not permitted.
- ☐ The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- ☐ North Carolina motor vehicle and traffic laws apply in the park.
- ☐ Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet and are not to be left unattended. Pets are not allowed in the bathhouse or swimming areas.
- ☐ Obey all boating and fishing regulations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.
- ☐ Camping is permitted in designated areas by permit only.
- ☐ As a courtesy to other campers, obey the posted campground quiet hours.
- ☐ Help maintain a clean environment by throwing trash in proper receptacles. State law requires aluminum cans to be placed in recycling containers.

# For Your Safety

To prevent accidents, please remember these safety tips.

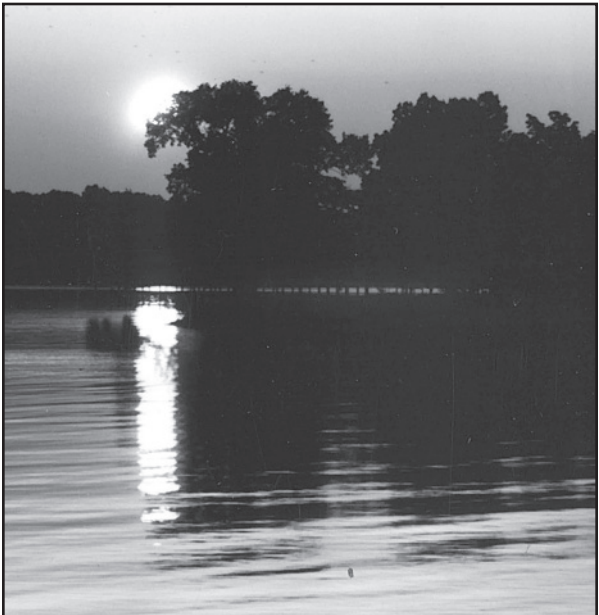
- ☐ Do not swim alone.
- ☐ Due to underwater hazards and irregular water depths, swimming from the park shoreline is not recommended.
- ☐ Remember that you may be boating in unfamiliar waters; exercise cautious seamanship. Do not water ski in boat-launching and mooring areas.
- ☐ Be aware of approaching storms and seek appropriate shelter.
- ☐ Take a vested interest in your safety. Wear a life vest when in or near the water.
- ☐ Be careful with fires when cooking or camping.



# Welcome!

At Lake Norman State Park, fun is just a matter of scale. On one hand, there's the largest manmade lake in the state, Lake Norman. When filled to capacity, it's surface area is 32,510 acres with a shoreline of 520 miles and a main channel 34 miles in length - thus its nickname, the "Inland Sea." Thirteen miles of the shoreline are in the state park, which provides boating access.

On another hand, the park boasts the 33-acre Park Lake where fishing and boating are enjoyed. And, with hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, interpretive programs and campgrounds, there's more to Lake Norman State Park than water.



## Information

To learn more about Lake Norman State Park, contact:

Lake Norman State Park  
159 Inland Sea Lane  
Troutman, NC 28166  
(704) 528-6350  
denr.dpr.lake.norman@lists.ncmail.net  
www.ncparks.gov

Discover other North Carolina state parks and recreation areas, contact:

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
1615 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699  
(919) 733-4181

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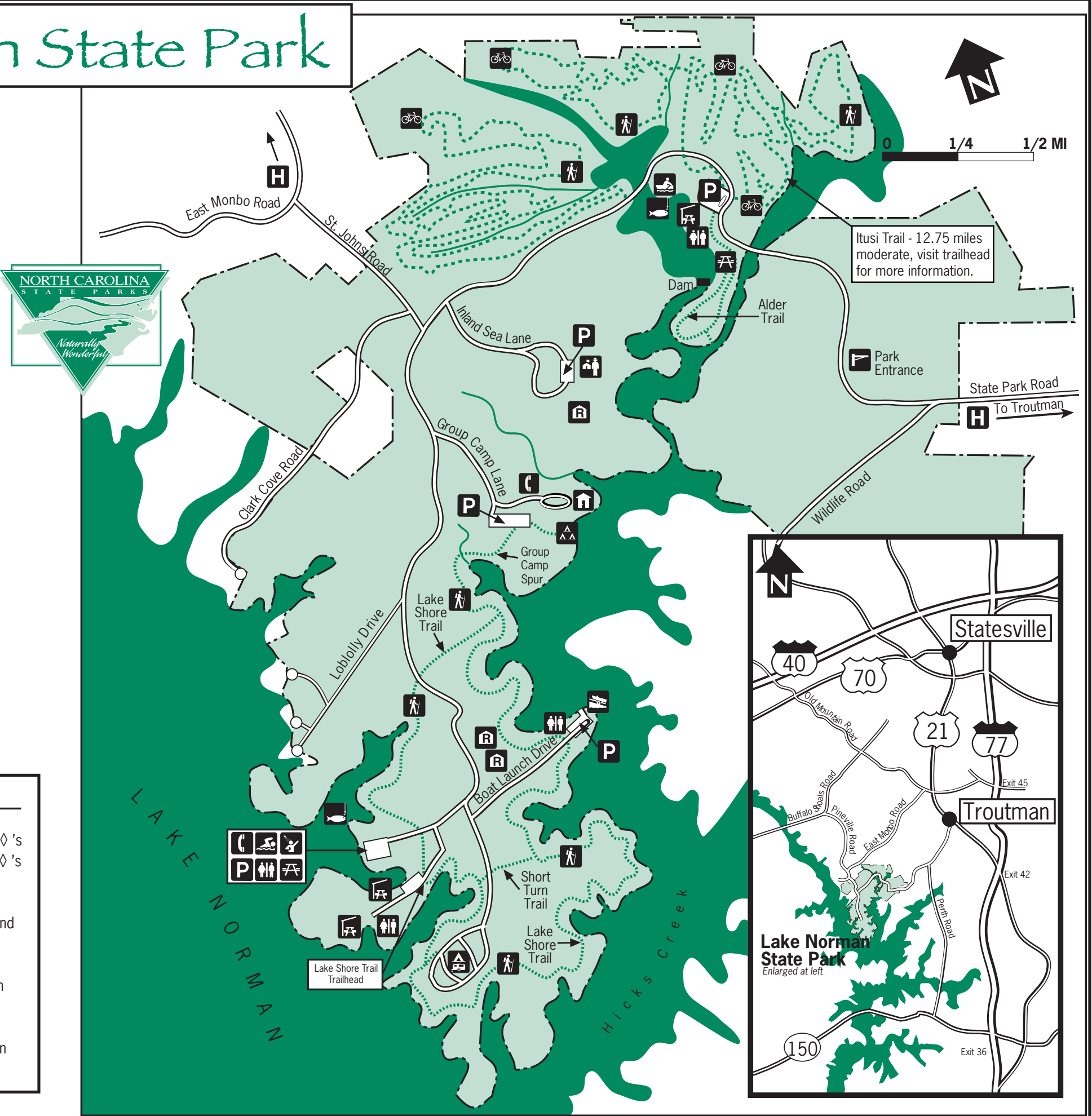
# Lake Norman State Park

## Legend

- Bathhouse
- Bike Trail
- Boat Ramp
- Rental
- Boundary Line
- Community Building
- Family Camping
- Fishing
- Group Camping
- Hiking Trail
- Hospital — 911
- Parking
- Park Gate
- Park Office
- Public Phone
- Picnic Shelter
- Picnicking
- Ranger Residence
- Restrooms
- Paved Road
- Swimming

## Trails

<b>Alder Trail</b>	0.8 miles	Easy	White diamond's
<b>Lake Shore Trail</b>	5.0 miles	Moderate	White diamond's
	6.3 miles		
	(from trailhead and doing an out and back on the Group Camp Spur)		
	2.6 miles		
	(traveling north from trailhead then using Short Turn Trail)		
	3.2 miles		
	(traveling south from trailhead then using Short Turn Trail)		



N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Lake Norman  
State Park

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Lake Norman State Park is located in Iredell County and is 10 miles south of Statesville and 32 miles north of Charlotte. Reach the park by taking exit 42 off I-77 and following the signs.

## Park Hours

November - February	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
March - May, September & October	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
June - August	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day	